#### **Overview**

Residents of Fairfax County benefit from a high level of public safety that enhances the quality of life and makes the County a desirable place in which to live and work. The agencies that comprise this program area include: Department of Cable Communications and Consumer Protection, Land Development Services, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, Police Department, Office of the Sheriff, Fire and Rescue Department and Office of Emergency Management. These agencies work closely together to achieve a coordinated approach to the myriad of public safety concerns facing Fairfax County in the 21st Century.

In large part, due to the Police Department's performance, the County's crime rate is among the lowest in the country for urban areas. By adding 19/19.0 SYE total positions in FY 2008, the County is continuing to ensure that the Police Department has the resources necessary to meet the new challenges of fighting crime in the community. For example, the addition of 8/8.0 SYE Police Officer positions allows for the permanent implementation of the Domestic Violence Detective program, which teams counselors with sworn detectives, enabling the department to provide more direct services to victims of domestic violence and provides a higher degree of follow-up, which can help to reduce further victimization. The addition of these new positions will also enable the department to redirect freed-up sworn staff resources used for the pilot program back to Patrol and further focus on the key challenge of reducing response times to calls for service. Also in FY 2008 1/1.0 SYE Victim Services Advocate position is included to further the Police Department's Community-Based Victim Advocacy Justice Center (C-BVAJC) initiative. The primary goal of the C-BVAJC is to provide ongoing support and assistance through the protective order and criminal court processes aimed at ensuring safety for domestic violence and stalking victims, and connecting victims to available County and community-based social service resources.

Likewise, the Fire and Rescue Department (FRD) is dedicated to ensuring a safe and secure environment for County residents. It has one of only two urban search and rescue teams in the country that partner with the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. State Department to provide emergency response support in national and international disasters. The County is fully reimbursed for such activations and its residents benefit from a highly trained and experienced team whose capital equipment needs are supplemented by the federal government. Ensuring that FRD staff has all necessary training is critical to continuing the department's excellent record of providing emergency and non-emergency services to County residents and visitors. For instance, in FY 2008, all uniformed employees will receive National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) training. The department also strives to educate and train members of the community to help it achieve its goal of being the best community-focused fire and rescue department. For instance, the department trains volunteers in the Community and Emergency Response Team (CERT) to assist communities and businesses in the aftermath of a major disaster when first responders are too overwhelmed or unable to respond and continues to target high-risk population groups through its Life Safety Education (LSE) program. The LSE program teaches fire safety and injury prevention education to children and senior citizens. Finally, the recent or planned addition of three new fire stations - Fairfax Center Fire Station, Crosspointe, and Wolf Trap Fire Station will provide additional response capacity to the County and further FRD's ability to serve Fairfax County residents.

The Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (PSTOC), scheduled to open spring/summer 2008, will also contribute to public safety countywide. The PSTOC will be a new high-security, state-of-the-art facility designed to provide efficient and effective public safety and transportation services using coordinated technology and integrated data systems. The new facility will house the County's Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC), the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), staff from the Police and Fire Departments, the Virginia Department of Transportation's Smart Traffic and Signal Centers, and the State Police Communications Center. In addition, the building will be co-located with a new Forensics facility to house technical and forensic units such as the Crime Scene Section, NOVARIS, Electronic Surveillance Unit, and Computer Forensic Unit. The new Forensics facility will meet the technical needs of these units and will provide the Police Department with programmatic efficiency by locating similar functions in one coordinated location.

Additional positions are required in the Fire and Rescue Department and Police Department with the opening of the PSTOC. The addition of 4/4.0 SYE Uniformed Fire Communications Officers (UFOs) are necessary to provide technical support to dispatchers, coordinate response efforts and resource allocations to balance response coverage, determine Advanced Life Support/ Basic Life Support (ALS/BLS) incident response, help interpret the Computer Aided Dispatch system, and support 911 operators. The 5/5.0 SYE Police Department positions will support the new Forensics facility by providing additional positions dedicated to evidence processing and information technology support.

For two decades, the Adult Detention Center (ADC) operated by the Office of the Sheriff has earned accreditation by both the American Correctional Association (ACA) and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care. Both accreditations play a vital role in protecting the County's assets by minimizing potential lawsuits, as well as ensuring accountability to the public. The ACA accreditation marks the longestrunning certification for adult jails in the United States. In a proactive measure, the Sheriff's Office recently initiated a program to place all inmates currently in the Electronic Incarceration and Work Release programs on an active GPS tracking system. This active GPS system allows Sheriff Deputies to monitor, in real time, the location of inmates who are working in the community in order to continue to provide a safe environment. The program is a proactive way to monitor inmates and replaces the older system which did not have real-time tracking capabilities. It should be noted that increased fees charged to inmates in the two programs offset the cost of the new system.

A major expansion to the Jennings Judicial Center is anticipated to be complete in summer 2007. This expansion includes a 316,000-square-foot addition to the existing building including courtrooms, chambers, office space, necessary support spaces, and site improvements. The expansion will consolidate court services, reduce overcrowding, allow after-hour access to the public law library and other court clerk functions, and provide additional courtroom space. The Courthouse Expansion is greatly needed to keep pace with the growth in population which has had a direct impact on caseload growth. The Judicial Center expansion also included a new juvenile holding center that will serve as a staging area for youth who have scheduled court hearings. The youth are moved from the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) to the juvenile holding area on the date of their court hearing, and can meet with their attorney and probation officer in interview rooms prior to their hearing. By having defendants queued up rather than requiring delays between cases to accommodate transport between courtrooms and the Juvenile Holding Center, proceedings will be delayed less frequently. The addition of 2/2.0 SYE Probation Counselor I positions in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court will be responsible for the transportation of juveniles to and from the juvenile holding area and the supervision of the holding area within the Judicial Center.

The County's Consumer Protection program also plays a key role by ensuring compliance with consumer laws. In FY 2006, the Consumer Protection Division responded to 100 percent of complaints received within 48 hours and successfully resolved over 77 percent of the valid complaints received.

## **Strategic Direction**

As part of the countywide focus on developing strategic plans, each of the agencies in this program area developed mission, vision and values statements; performed environmental scans; and defined strategies for achieving their missions. These strategic plans are linked to the overall County Core Purpose and Vision Elements. Common themes in the agencies in the Public Safety program area include:

- Language and cultural diversity
- Recruitment and retention of quality staff
- Capacity to address growth
- Public education and outreach
- Leveraging technology
- Partnerships and community involvement
- Stewardship of resources

#### **COUNTY CORE PURPOSE**

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods, and diverse communities of Fairfax County by:

- Maintaining Safe and Caring Communities
- Building Livable Spaces
- Practicing Environmental Stewardship
- Connecting People and Places
- Creating a Culture of Engagement
- Maintaining Healthy Economies
- Exercising Corporate Stewardship

In recent years new kinds of public safety priorities such as regional homeland security efforts, inmate population growth, increased criminal gang activity, increases in identity theft and other nontraditional crimes, and the need for new facilities, have required the attention of public safety agencies. Addressing these types of threats presents a significant challenge to these agencies. Changing demographics further complicate the situation. Population increases result in higher workloads, which the Board of Supervisors seeks to address through allocating resources to this priority area. However, pressures to fund other priorities and provide tax relief make it necessary for these agencies to continue to find ways to provide high quality services within funding constraints. The effort to develop strategic plans provided an opportunity to focus on County priorities and deploy resources accordingly.

### **Linkage to County Vision Elements**

While this program area supports all seven of the County Vision Elements, the following are especially emphasized:

- Maintaining Safe and Caring Communities
- Connecting People and Places
- Creating a Culture of Engagement

Not surprisingly, the predominant focus of the agencies in this program area is the **Maintaining Safe and Caring Communities** vision element. The Fire Department's Rescue Company's Fourth on Rescue was fully implemented in FY 2007, which added a fourth person to each of the department's rescue companies. Each rescue company now consists of one driver, one officer and two fire technicians. Adding the additional fire technician to each rescue company allows for quicker extrication of trapped victims by allowing crew members the ability to operate in separate teams of two in order to conduct tactical assignments. This level of staffing is consistent with National Fire Protection Standards. In FY 2008, the Fire Department expects to implement an EMS patient care reporting system for field users, which will provide electronic patient care reports to hospitals and will improve internal record keeping. This will reduce the cost of gathering and compiling data, as well as increase the efficiency of patient care reporting process.

The Office of Emergency Management's (OEM) work to prepare the County in the event of natural, technological and terrorist-related emergencies also falls under this Vision Element. In FY 2006, OEM established a Watch Center in order to provide a 24/7 point of vigilance to enhance the emergency notification and alerting system. The Watch Center personnel monitor national, regional, and local events and when appropriate, provide notification to emergency responders, emergency partners, identified target groups (such as private schools, malls, and community groups), and the general public in the event of a major emergency. In FY 2008, OEM will continue to address on-going and projected County Emergency Planning Initiatives such as updating the County Emergency Operations Plan and the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, planning for public health outbreaks, updating business operations plans, and several other emergency planning efforts.

The Sheriff's Office has implemented the Project Lifesaver Program which is a lifesaving search and rescue application that assists clients and families of individuals with Autism, Down Syndrome, Alzheimer's, and related diseases and disabilities. As public awareness grows, it is anticipated that the number of clients will significantly increase. The Sheriff's Office has over 100 trained and certified staff both sworn and civilian. New training sessions are planned to increase this number to provide the County with the most efficient and effective electronic search and rescue program. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office has recently created a new Gang Intelligence Officer position using existing staff resources. This position ensures the appropriate level of security precautions are taken within the Adult Detention Center (ADC) and works to provide timely and accurate information to facilitate the proper housing of inmates. Accurate inmate assessments and appropriate classification decisions are critical to the security of the ADC and safety of staff, volunteers, visitors, inmates and the community.

The prevention and intervention of youth gang activity, as well as appropriate enforcement of criminal gang activity, continues to be a focus for the Police Department. Gang activity can include violent crimes and is a threat to the safety of the entire community, and particularly school-aged children. Gangs are becoming increasingly organized in their criminal activities and their propensity for violence has caused concern in the community. The Police Department has created the foundation for countywide prevention and intervention strategies through the support of the Gang Coordinator and the Gang Coordinating Council. The development of policies to enhance countywide coordination to combat gang issues is the first phase in a long-term sustained effort to eliminate gang activity and make the community a safer place. During the last two fiscal years, the department's successful Road DAWG (Don't Associate With Gangs) Program has gained national recognition as an innovative gang prevention and awareness program. Additionally, the department has established networks with several diverse community groups, including the Hispanic Committee of Virginia, to provide youth with alternatives to gang life.

A number of creative initiatives are taking place in this program area to foster the Connecting People and Places vision element. The Sheriff's Office, for example, has added a new educational mentoring program through adult education classes at Woodson High School, including an English as a Second Language (ESL) class, thus increasing the curriculum for inmates. The Sheriff's Office will continue to encourage inmates' participation in educational programs and self help and skills development classes. This will help foster personal development and assist inmates in the reintegration into the community with the necessary skills to become productive and law-abiding members of the community. The Department of Cable Communications and Consumer Protection additionally continues to emphasize outreach programs to residents, resident groups, and homeowners' associations through seminars, educational programs, presentations, handouts, Internet, and cable television programming. A recent Web site redesign enhances ease of use and facilitates access to important consumer and cable television information. The department also recently established a presence in the South County government building to provide Consumer Protection Division services to Fairfax County residents and will initiate a test program to expand the offering of license processing in the building. Additionally, in an effort to increase efficiencies and expand the capabilities of the existing Citizen Reporting Services in FY 2008, the Police Department will make it easier for residents to make non-urgent crime reports, which do not require an on-scene response, in a timely and efficient manner.

The Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court has recently embarked on a multiyear, multiphase electronic record management system which will allow the Court to replace traditional paper-based case files and manual court case processes with electronic court case records and automated work flows for case processing and management. The Court had a successful implementation of processes for Juvenile Intake informal hearing and monitored diversion cases in FY 2006, and will implement the processes for traffic and juvenile criminal cases in FY 2007. During FY 2008, work will continue until all juvenile and adult legal processes have been converted to an automated system of electronic workflow and documents.

The County's vision element for Creating a Culture of Engagement will be addressed within this program area by efforts to enhance and expand community participation. Recently the Police Department implemented a Language Skills Support Unit, providing investigative support to all entities of the Police Department in the form of translation, interpretation, and communication assistance services in serious The department also enrolled officers in a language immersion program to teach conversational Spanish, enabling the Police Department to address major communication challenges present in some communities. A similar initiative took place in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, which completed Spanish instruction for a cross-representation of staff. This training has enhanced the agency's ability to communicate with the youth and families the Court serves. Providing language and culturally appropriate services has been identified as one of the agency's strategic planning initiatives. It is anticipated that this training will continue in future years. Another FY 2008 focus area for the Police Department is the continued methamphetamine outreach program. Recently the agency instituted a public training and awareness program on the dangers and consequences of methamphetamine use, and formed an alliance with the Partnership for a Drug Free America to inform and educate the community of the risks methamphetamine poses to both juveniles and adults. Planned activities include training to community groups and organizations offered by detectives from the Organized Crime and Narcotics Division, along with prevention and treatment specialists; and television and radio commercials that illustrate the devastating consequences of methamphetamine use.

### **Program Area Summary by Character**

Category	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Adopted Budget Plan	FY 2007 Revised Budget Plan	FY 2008 Advertised Budget Plan	FY 2008 Adopted Budget Plan		
Authorized Positions/Staff Years							
Regular	4058/ 4045.5	4150/ 4136.75	4137/ 4135	4160/ 4158	4163/ 4161		
State	42/ 42	43/43	43/43	43/43	43/ 43		
Expenditures:							
Personnel Services	\$302,813,291	\$341,181,057	\$338,521,424	\$353,322,961	\$353,322,961		
Operating Expenses	67,262,023	58,816,998	73,851,425	59,757,805	59 <i>,</i> 757,805		
Capital Equipment	823,341	1,545,315	3,288,570	479,205	479,205		
Subtotal	\$370,898,655	\$401,543,370	\$415,661,419	\$413,559,971	\$413,559,971		
Less:							
Recovered Costs	(\$826,305)	(\$974,986)	(\$974,986)	(\$926,188)	(\$926,188)		
Total Expenditures	\$370,072,350	\$400,568,384	\$414,686,433	\$412,633,783	\$412,633,783		
Income	\$75,200,006	\$72,487,858	\$75,006,907	\$75,345,658	\$75,345,658		
Net Cost to the County	\$294,872,344	\$328,080,526	\$339,679,526	\$337,288,125	\$337,288,125		

### **Program Area Summary by Agency**

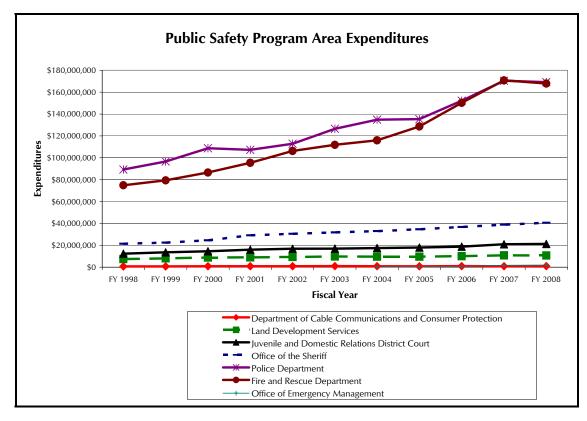
Category	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Adopted Budget Plan	FY 2007 Revised Budget Plan	FY 2008 Advertised Budget Plan	FY 2008 Adopted Budget Plan
Department of Cable			•	•	
Communications and					
Consumer Protection	\$1,036,111	\$948,055	\$948,055	\$984,443	\$984,443
Land Development Services	10,120,541	10,515,898	10,849,561	10,738,283	10,738,283
Juvenile and Domestic					
Relations District Court	18,832,843	20,300,176	21,017,093	21,279,447	21,279,447
Police Department	152,189,837	162,425,005	170,469,432	169,214,279	169,214,279
Office of the Sheriff	36,802,549	38,606,113	38,849,393	40,591,199	40,591,199
Fire and Rescue Department	150,327,475	166,326,228	170,793,830	167,904,105	167,904,105
Office of Emergency					
Management	762,994	1,446,909	1,759,069	1,922,027	1,922,027
Total Expenditures	\$370,072,350	\$400,568,384	\$414,686,433	\$412,633,783	\$412,633,783

## **Budget Trends**

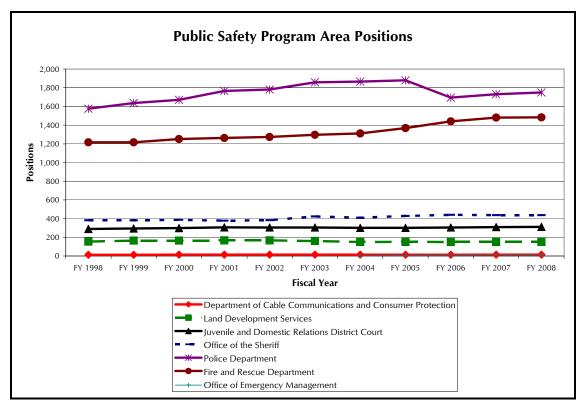
For FY 2008, the adopted funding level of \$412,633,783 for the Public Safety program area comprises 34.3 percent of the total recommended General Fund expenditures of \$1,202,231,764. This program area also includes 4,323 positions (4,163 positions supported by General Fund agencies and 160 positions supported by Fund 120, E-911) or 36.0 percent of total authorized positions for FY 2008 (not including state positions).

Public Safety program area expenditures represent a slight increase over the <u>FY 2007 Adopted Budget Plan</u> and a decrease from the *FY 2007 Revised Budget Plan* expenditure levels. The increase over the <u>FY 2007 Adopted Budget Plan</u> is 3.0 percent primarily associated with compensation-related adjustments associated with general pay increases and 19/19.0 SYE new positions in the Police Department. The slight decrease from *FY 2007 Revised Budget Plan* is a result of one-time carryover of funding from the previous fiscal year.

## **Trends in Expenditures and Positions**

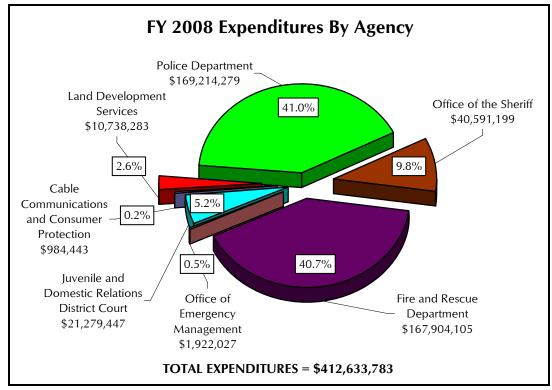


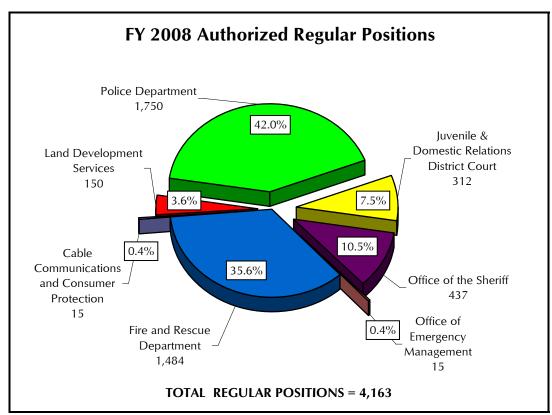
Prior to FY 2005, the Office of Emergency Management was part of the Police Department. It is a separate agency beginning in FY 2005. Therefore, no trend line is shown for either expenditures or positions. Future presentations will include this new agency's trends.



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## FY 2008 Expenditures and Positions by Agency





#### **Federal and State Mandates**

As a result of the type of activities performed in the Public Safety program area, all of the agencies included here are directly affected by federal and state mandates. And, for purposes of compiling federal and state mandate data, the Office of the Sheriff is reflected entirely in this program area.

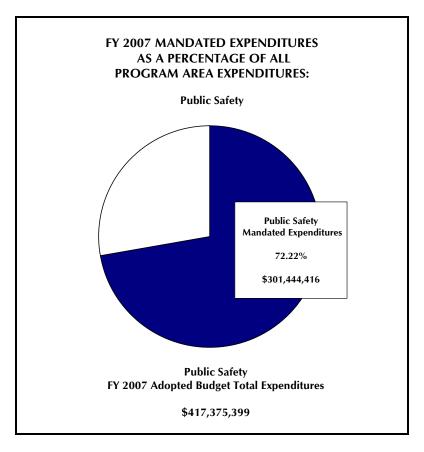
The Sheriff's Office routinely holds state prisoners at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center (ADC) until formal sentencing is complete. They must meet all state Department of Corrections mandates for all inmates within the ADC or satellite jail facilities. In addition, the state mandates the operation and enforcement of civil processing which is performed by Sheriff staff.

The Fire and Rescue Department must adhere to strict mandates for hazardous materials response, ensuring the appropriate measures are taken for clean-up and disposal of hazardous incidents. In addition, there are federal and state protective firefighting equipment, testing, maintenance and repair mandates, as well as fire prevention and training regulations that must be adhered to.

There are many state mandates required of the Police Department, ensuring that the rights of both the victim and the accused are protected. This includes work associated with crime reporting, the alcohol testing unit, the organized crime division, as well as patrol officers. In addition, the department must meet state certification requirements for unmarked vehicles, follow state guidelines for the reporting of hate crimes, and enforce violations of state animal service laws.

As mandated by state code, the County has an emergency management function that is responsible for mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery in the event of a local disaster. In addition, the state requires that Fairfax County prepare and keep current a local emergency operations plan, as well as establish an alert and warning system for the sharing information with the event of an emergency or threatened disaster. These functions are housed in the recently created Office of Emergency Management.

In FY 2007, the agencies in this program area anticipated spending \$301.4 million to comply with federal and state mandates, receiving \$63.1 million in revenue (to include federal, state and user fee/other revenue), for a net cost to the County of \$238.3 million.



### **Benchmarking**

In order to obtain a wide range of comparative performance data, Fairfax County has participated in the International City/County Management Association's (ICMA) benchmarking effort since 2000. Over 150 cities and counties provided comparable data in a number of service areas for the last reporting cycle. Not all jurisdictions provide data for every service area, however. Police and Fire/EMS are two of the benchmarked service areas for which Fairfax County provides data. Participating local governments (cities, counties and towns) provide data on standard templates provided by ICMA in order to ensure consistency. ICMA then performs extensive data cleaning to ensure the greatest possible accuracy and comparability of data. As a result of the time for data collection and ICMA's rigorous data cleaning processes, information is always available with a one-year delay. FY 2005 data represent the latest available information. The jurisdictions presented in the graphs below generally show how Fairfax County compares to other large jurisdictions (population over 500,000). In cases where other Virginia localities provided data, they are shown as well.

An important point to note in an effort such as this is that since participation is voluntary, the jurisdictions that provide data have shown they are committed to becoming/remaining high performance organizations. Therefore, comparisons made through this program should be considered in the context that the participants have self-selected and are inclined to be among the higher performers than a random sample among local governments nationwide. Not all jurisdictions respond to all questions. In some cases, the question or process is not applicable to a particular locality or data are not available. For those reasons, the universe of jurisdictions with which Fairfax County is compared is not always the same for each benchmark. However, whenever a jurisdiction of over 500,000 residents or another Virginia locality responded to a particular question for which Fairfax County also provided data, those comparisons have been included. It is also important to note that performance is also affected by a number of variables including funding levels, weather, the economy, local preferences, cuts in federal and state aid, unionization and demographic characteristics such as income, age and ethnicity.

As can be seen from the graphs on the following pages, Fairfax County ranks favorably compared to other large jurisdictions and other Virginia localities with regard to performance in the public safety area. Compared to other large cities and counties within the Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as the other Northern Virginia localities, Fairfax County's cost per capita for public safety expenditures is in the mid-range. This is probably to be expected as taxpayers and the Board of Supervisors would likely not want to be the cheapest nor the most expensive in this critical program area. For the investment that Fairfax County makes, there is a very high return in terms of public safety.

With only 116 Total Fire Incidents per 100,000 Population Served (structure and non-structure incidents) the County had the second lowest rate in comparison to other large and Virginia jurisdictions responding. In addition, Fairfax County had the second lowest rate of Total Structure Fires per 100,000 Population at 47. This attests to a highly effective fire prevention program that places emphasis on avoidance rather than the more costly and dangerous requirements associated with extinguishment. An area where improvement continues to be indicated is the Percent of Emergency Fire Calls with a Response Time of Five Minutes and Under from Dispatch to Arrival on the Scene. Fairfax County's rate of 57.1 percent is below the 60-77 percent rates achieved by Las Vegas, Miami-Dade, Austin, Richmond and Dallas. It is anticipated that the addition of the Crosspointe and Wolf Trap Fire Stations in the coming years will result in improved response times.

With regard to the crime rate, Fairfax County continued to experience an extremely low rate of Violent Crimes per 1,000 Population, further validating the County's reputation as a safe place to live and work. The County's rate was again 1.0 UCR Part I Violent Crime Reported per 1,000 Population. The UCR Part 1 Property Crimes Reported per 1,000 is the third lowest among responding participants, while the clearance rate was the third highest among the comparison jurisdictions. Fairfax County had the fourth lowest rate of Injury-producing Traffic Accidents per 1,000 Population at 5.2, while Traffic Fatalities per 1,000 was sixth lowest among the 17 jurisdictions responding. A number of other police and fire benchmarks are shown on the following pages.

